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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/399,875	09/20/99	HOEK	S DON01-P-767

MM42/0229
VAN DYKE GARDNER LINN & BURKHART LLP
2851 CHARLEVOIX DRIVE S E
SUITE 207
GRAND RAPIDS MI 49546

EXAMINER

SIKDER.M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2872

DATE MAILED:

02/29/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

MM42/0229

VAN DYKE GARDNER LINN & BURKHART LLP
2851 CHARLEVOIX DRIVE S E
SUITE 207
GRAND RAPIDS MI 49546

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
09/399,875	09/20/99	051	SIKDER, M 2672	02/29/00
First Named Applicant HDEK	35 USC 154(b) term ext. = 0 Days.			

TITLE OF INVENTION **ADJUSTABLE EXTERIOR REARVIEW MIRROR ASSEMBLY FOR VEHICLES**

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEE DUE	DATE DUE
0 DON01-P-767	359-871.000	184	UTILITY	NO	\$1210.00	05/30/00

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.

THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.

HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number.

Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE COPY

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/399,875

Applicant(s)

Hoek

Examiner

Mohammad Y. Sikder

Group Art Unit

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All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

☒ This communication is responsive to examiner's interview on 2/17/00.

☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-51.

☐ The drawings filed on _____ are acceptable.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

☒ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

☐ because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.

☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. 6.

☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on _____, which has been approved by the examiner.

☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 3

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

☒ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance


Cassandra Spyrou
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800

Application/Control Number: 09/399,875

Page 2

Art Unit: 2872

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Catherine S. Collins on 2/17/00.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

✓a) amend claims as follows:

1. (Amended)

An extendable exterior rearview mirror assembly comprising:

a mounting bracket [adapted] for mounting to a vehicle;

a mirror subassembly having a housing and a reflective element;

[a biasing member; and]

a support arm mounted for pivotal movement on said mounting bracket from a normal operating position toward a folded position, said support arm having a longitudinal axis, said longitudinal axis extending laterally outward from the vehicle when said mounting bracket is mounted to a vehicle and said support arm is in said normal operating position; and

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Art Unit: 2872

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a clamping assembly mounted in said housing, said clamping assembly comprising a biasing member and a bearing member, said mirror subassembly being [supported by] mounted on said support arm by said clamping assembly [and being mounted] for selective movement on said support arm along said longitudinal axis of said support arm to at least one extended viewing position spaced from a fully retracted position [one of at least two viewing positions], and said biasing member providing a spring force, said spring force providing [urging said support arm into] frictional engagement between [with] said [mirror subassembly] bearing member and said support arm to releasably clamp said mirror subassembly on said support arm to limit movement of said mirror subassembly along said longitudinal axis of said support arm, said support arm moving relative to said biasing member and said bearing member when a sufficient force is applied to said mirror subassembly wherein said mirror subassembly moves relative to said support arm along said longitudinal axis of said support arm to adjust the viewing position of said mirror subassembly [, and said movement of said mirror subassembly along said support arm being independent from said pivotal movement].

3. (Amended)

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The extendable exterior rearview mirror assembly according to Claim 2, wherein said mirror subassembly further comprises an actuator bracket, said actuator bracket mounting said actuator in said housing of said mirror subassembly, [said biasing member urging said support

Art Unit: 2872

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arm into frictional engagement with said actuator bracket to limit the movement of said mirror subassembly along said support arm] and said actuator bracket including said bearing member.

5. (Amended)

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The extendable exterior rearview mirror assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said biasing member comprises at least one plate spring, said plate spring having an undulating cross-section and urging said support arm into frictional engagement with said [mirror subassembly] bearing member, and said undulating cross-section absorbing manufacturing tolerances of said support arm [and said mirror subassembly].

6. (Amended)

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The extendable exterior rearview mirror assembly according to Claim 5, wherein plate spring comprises a first plate spring, said biasing member including a second plate spring, said second plate spring having an undulating cross-section and together with said first plate spring urging said support arm into frictional engagement with said [mirror subassembly] bearing member.

Art Unit: 2872

7. (Amended)

The extendable exterior rearview mirror assembly according to Claim 3, wherein said actuator bracket includes a clamp, said clamp including said bearing member and supporting said support arm [against] and said biasing member.

8. (Amended)

The extendable exterior rearview mirror assembly according to Claim 7, wherein said actuator includes a body, said clamp comprising an L-shaped clamp, said L-shaped clamp providing said bearing member, said L-shaped clamp and said body of said actuator bracket defining a longitudinal passage, said support arm extending in said longitudinal passage, and said biasing member urging said support arm into frictional engagement with said clamp.

10. (Amended)

The extendable exterior rearview mirror assembly according to Claim 8, wherein said [clamp includes] bearing member includes a metal bearing surface, said biasing member urging said support arm into frictional engagement with said metal bearing surface.

✓ In Claim 13, line 3:

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Art Unit: 2872

17. (Amended)

An extendable exterior rearview mirror assembly comprising:

a mounting bracket [adapted] for mounting to a vehicle;

a mirror subassembly having a housing, a reflective element, and an actuator supporting said reflective element in said housing, said actuator being mounted to said housing by an actuator bracket, said bracket including a bearing member;

a biasing member; and

a support arm supported by said mounting bracket, said support arm having a longitudinal axis extending laterally outward from the vehicle when the mirror assembly is mounted to the vehicle, said mirror subassembly being [supported by said support arm and being] mounted by said actuator bracket for selective movement on said support arm along said longitudinal axis of said support arm to at least one [of two] extended viewing position[s] spaced from a fully retracted position, said biasing member providing a spring force, said spring force providing [urging said support arm into] frictional engagement [with] between said bearing member of said actuator bracket and said support arm to releasably clamp said mirror subassembly on said support arm to limit movement of said mirror subassembly along said longitudinal axis of said support arm, said support arm moving relative to said bearing member and said biasing member when a sufficient force is applied to said mirror subassembly wherein said mirror subassembly moves relative to said support along said longitudinal axis of said support arm to adjust the viewing position of said mirror subassembly.

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Art Unit: 2872

20. (Amended)

The extendable exterior rearview mirror assembly according to Claim 17, wherein said biasing member comprises a plate spring, said plate spring having an undulating cross-section and urging said support arm into frictional engagement with said [actuator bracket] bearing member while absorbing manufacturing tolerances of said actuator bracket and said support arm.

21. (Amended)

The extendable exterior rearview mirror assembly according to Claim 20, wherein said actuator bracket includes a longitudinal passage, said support arm extending into said longitudinal passage and being urged into frictional engagement with said [actuator bracket] bearing member by said biasing member.

22. (Amended)

The extendable exterior rearview mirror assembly according to Claim 21, wherein said actuator bracket includes a clamp, said clamp providing said bearing member, said bearing member and said biasing member frictionally holding said support arm in said longitudinal passage to limit the movement of said mirror subassembly along said support arm.

Art Unit: 2872

23. (Amended)

The extendable exterior rearview mirror assembly according to Claim 22, wherein said clamp comprises an L-shape member, said biasing member comprising a pair of wave springs, said clamp clamping said support arm against said wave springs such that said wave springs bias said support arm into frictional engagement with said [clamp] bearing member.

24. (Amended)

The extendable exterior rearview mirror assembly according to Claim 23, wherein said [actuator bracket further includes a] bearing member is interposed between said clamp and said support arm, said bearing member having a smooth planar surface.

32. (Amended)

An extendable exterior rearview mirror assembly comprising:
a mounting bracket [adapted] for mounting to a vehicle;
a mirror subassembly having a housing, a reflective element having a rearward field of view, and an actuator supporting said reflective element in said housing to provide repositioning of said reflective element, said actuator being mounted to said housing by an actuator bracket; and
a support arm supported by said mounting bracket, said support arm having a longitudinal axis extending laterally outward from a vehicle when said mirror assembly is mounted

Art Unit: 2872

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to the vehicle, said actuator bracket including a bearing member and at least one biasing member, said biasing member providing a spring force, said spring force urging said support arm into frictional engagement with said bearing member to releasably clamp said mirror subassembly and said actuator bracket on said support [said mirror subassembly being supported by said support arm and being mounted] for selective movement on said support arm along said longitudinal axis of said support arm to at least one [of two] extended viewing position[s] spaced from a fully retracted position[, said support arm frictionally engaging said actuator bracket thereby limiting] and to limit movement of said mirror subassembly along said support arm, said support arm moving relative to said biasing member and said bearing member when a sufficient force is applied to said mirror subassembly wherein said mirror subassembly moves relative to said support arm along said longitudinal axis of said support arm to change said rearward field of view.

33. (Amended)

Cont.

The extendable exterior rearview mirror assembly according to Claim 32, wherein said actuator bracket [included] includes a transverse passage, said bearing member positioned in said passage, and said support arm extending into said transverse passage to frictionally engage said [actuator bracket] bearing member.

Art Unit: 2872

34. (Amended)

The extendable exterior rearview mirror assembly according to Claim 33, wherein said [actuator bracket includes a] biasing member is positioned in said passage for urging said support arm into frictional engagement with said [actuator bracket] bearing member.

35. (Amended)

The extendable exterior rearview mirror assembly according to Claim 34, wherein said biasing member comprises a wave spring, said spring extending through said passage for urging said support arm into frictional engagement with said [actuator bracket] bearing member:

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

The claims are allowable over the prior art for at least the reason that the prior art fails to reasonably teach or suggest said support arm moving relative to said biasing member and said bearing member when a sufficient force is applied to said mirror subassembly wherein said mirror subassembly moves relative to said support arm along said longitudinal axis of said support arm to adjust the viewing position of said mirror subassembly as set forth in the claimed combination.

Art Unit: 2872

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably **accompany** the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

CONTACT INFORMATION

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 2870 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 2870 via the PTO Fax center located in the Crystal Plaza 4. Faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The CP-4 Fax Center number is (703) 308-7722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to M. Sikder whose telephone number is (703) 305-5471.

M. Sikder

February 21, 2000



Cassandra Spyrou
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800

